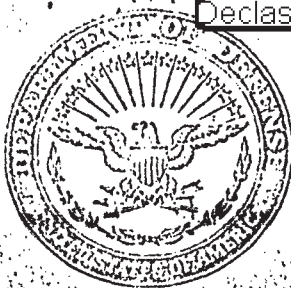


~~SECRET~~

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 07-17-2012 pursuant to E.O. 13526



March 19, 1959

NUMBER S-3115.4

R003030

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Communications Intelligence (COMINT)

- Ref: (a) NSCID No. 6, dated September 15, 1958
(b) SecDef memo, subj: Implementation of NSCID No. 9
Revised, dated December 5, 1952 (canceled by ref. (c)).
(c) DOD Dir. S-5100.20, "The National Security Agency"

I. PURPOSE

This Directive is issued for the purpose of implementing the COMINT provisions of reference (a).

II. DEFINITIONS

A. For the purpose of this Directive, the terms "Communications Intelligence" or "COMINT" shall be construed to mean technical and intelligence information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients.

B. COMINT activities shall be construed to mean those activities which produce COMINT by the interception and processing of foreign communications passed by radio, wire, or other electromagnetic means, with specific exceptions stated in paragraph II. C. below, and by the processing of foreign encrypted communications, however transmitted. Interception comprises search, intercept, and direction finding. Processing comprises range estimation, transmitter/operator identification, signal analysis, traffic analysis, cryptanalysis, decryption, study of plain text, the fusion of these processes, and the reporting of results.

C. COMINT and COMINT activities as defined herein shall not include:

1. Intercept and processing of unencrypted written communications, except the processing of written

~~SECRET~~ EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING,
DOD DIR 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

~~SECRET~~

plain text versions of communications which have been encrypted or are intended for subsequent encryption.

2. Intercept and processing of press, propaganda and other public broadcasts, except for processing encrypted or "hidden meaning" passages in such broadcasts.
3. Certain operations conducted by security authorities.
4. Censorship.

III. POLICY

A. The Secretary of Defense has been designated as Executive Agent of the Government for the conduct of COMINT activities in accordance with the provisions of reference (a) and for the maintenance and operation of the National Security Agency (NSA). The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) will exercise the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense by reference (a) relating to the direction and control of the National Security Agency and related activities of the Department of Defense.

B. The COMINT mission of the National Security Agency shall be to provide an effective, unified organization and control of the COMINT intercept and processing activities of the United States, to provide for integrated operational policies and procedures pertaining thereto and to produce COMINT information in accordance with objectives, requirements and priorities established by the U.S. Intelligence Board. For these purposes all U. S. COMINT activities, except as otherwise specified herein, are placed under the operational and technical control of the Director, National Security Agency.

C. The Secretary of Defense will establish the consolidated DOD budget, and requirements for military and civilian manpower, logistic and communications support, and research, development, test and evaluation for COMINT activities, and provide for inclusions as appropriate in the budgets and programs of the military departments and other DOD agencies. With the collaboration of interested elements of the Department of Defense, the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations) will continually review the development and execution of COMINT plans and programs as a basis on which to provide for effective, efficient and economical management and operation and the elimination of undesirable duplication.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Mar 19, 59.

S-3115.4

D. The military departments and the commanders of commands established by the Secretary of Defense will conduct such search, intercept, direction finding, range estimation, and signal analysis of communications electromagnetic radiations as must be undertaken to permit immediate operational use of the information in support of electronic warfare and rescue operations. With respect to these activities, it is noted that:

1. They have the following characteristics:
 - a. They are performed in direct and immediate support of operations conducted for other than intelligence purposes and are active only when the supported operations are underway. The term "operations", as used in this directive, includes training and test exercises, and is not confined to wartime activities.
 - b. They are performed by equipment which, though identical or similar to that used by COMINT units for intelligence purposes, is an essential component of the weapons system, facility, or activity which has an operational mission or objective.
2. Examples of such activities are those undertaken:
 - a. By ships and aircraft for navigational purposes and for their own protection.
 - b. For rescue operations.
 - c. For the support of active electronic counter-measures, counter-countermeasures, imitative communication and electronic deception, while these operations are being conducted.
 - d. By ships, aircraft, and/or ground units for detection, early warning, tracking, identification, target acquisition, or homing purposes, in connection with operations actually underway.
3. In the event data obtained by these activities is usable for intelligence purposes, this data should be provided, by the most expeditious means available, to the appropriate COMINT activity for further handling.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

E. Paragraph III. D. above should not be interpreted to mean that COMINT units which operate under the operational and technical control of the Director, National Security Agency, do not have a mission of direct and immediate support to operations which are being conducted.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Joint Chiefs of Staff

1. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will:

- a. Review the COMINT plans and programs of the Director, National Security Agency, to insure that they are in consonance with approved plans and adequate to serve the joint needs of the military departments, the commands established by the Secretary of Defense and the missions of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate.
- b. Review the consolidated DOD budget, and requirements for military and civilian manpower, logistic support, and research, development, test and evaluation for COMINT activities as submitted to the Secretary of Defense by the Director, National Security Agency, to determine the impact on stated military requirements, and make appropriate recommendations with respect thereto to the Secretary of Defense.

B. The Director, National Security Agency

1. The Director, National Security Agency, will:

- a. Accomplish the COMINT mission of the National Security Agency in accordance with the provisions of reference (a).
- b. Exercise operational and technical control of the COMINT collection and processing activities of the departments and agencies of the Government, except those activities conducted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph III. D. above or NSCID No. 5.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~Mar 19, 59
S-3115.4

- c. Delegate operational control of specified COMINT facilities and resources to appropriate authorities for such periods and for such tasks as are determined by him to be necessary, including those tasks to meet the direct support requirements of military departments and commanders.
- d. Prepare in collaboration with the military departments and submit to the Secretary of Defense the consolidated DOD plans and programs for COMINT activities, together with his recommendations pertaining thereto.
- e. Prepare in collaboration with the military departments and submit to the Secretary of Defense the consolidated DOD budget, and requirements for military and civilian manpower, logistic support, and research, development, test and evaluation for COMINT activities, together with his recommendations pertaining thereto.
- f. Under the supervision of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, establish and conduct a research and engineering program to meet the needs of the National Security Agency and the departments and agencies which are engaged in COMINT activities; review and coordinate the related COMINT research and engineering programs conducted by such departments and agencies. He will also recommend controls and procedures to the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, governing the conduct of COMINT research, development, test and evaluation.
- g. Standardize in collaboration with the military departments COMINT equipment and facilities wherever practicable.
- h. Provide for the production and procurement of specialized COMINT equipments.
- i. Provide technical guidance and support, including information, specialized equipment and engineering assistance, and analytic service to all U.S. COMINT activities.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- j. Provide technical guidance and support of COMINT training conducted by the military departments, and prescribe minimum standards for their COMINT training curricula.
- k. Conduct necessary specialized and advanced COMINT training.
- l. Determine the requirements for communications to meet the needs of the National Security Agency and submit them to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review and appropriate action.
- m. Determine and make known to appropriate authorities courier service requirements for the expeditious handling of COMINT material.
- n. Determine and submit to the authorities responsible for logistic support for the National Security Agency, requirements together with specific recommendations as to what each of the responsible departments and agencies of the Government should supply.

C. The Military Departments

- 1. The Secretaries of the military departments will:
 - a. Plan, program and budget for their respective COMINT activities; collaborate with the Director, National Security Agency, in the preparation of consolidated DOD plans, programs and budget estimates.
 - b. Procure for, operate, organize, train, equip, administer, and provide logistic support to their respective COMINT activities. This will include provision of adequate reserve programs to meet emergency or wartime requirements for COMINT activities.
 - c. Provide the necessary COMINT facilities and resources for the support of military operations and of the national COMINT effort as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~Mar 19, 59
S-3115.4

- d. Perform COMINT collection and processing tasks as specified by the Director, National Security Agency, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph IV. B. 1. b. above.
- e. Assign military personnel to the National Security Agency in accordance with approved requirements. The normal tour of duty is thirty-six months. Longer assignment of specially qualified personnel is authorized as may be arranged with the Department concerned. The military departments may add, withdraw, or substitute personnel within the authorized personnel strength of the National Security Agency, subject to the concurrence of the Director, NSA.
- f. Keep the Director, National Security Agency, and through him the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, currently advised of their COMINT research and engineering requirements; and accomplish such research, development, test and evaluation as may be assigned.
- g. Subject to approval by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, initiate and pursue such research and engineering projects as may be necessary to support their COMINT activities, and accomplish such COMINT research, development, test and evaluation as approved or assigned by the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. A military department undertaking research and engineering projects in areas touching on COMINT will advise the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, the Director, National Security Agency, and other military departments as a matter of mutual interest.
- h. State to the Director, National Security Agency, their requirements for COMINT direct support.
- i. Conduct the activities listed in paragraph III. D. above in accordance with the provisions contained therein; where feasible, coordinate such activities with the Director, National Security Agency.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- j. Conduct those COMINT activities, other than cryptanalysis, undertaken in support of their missions under the authority of NSCID No. 5; where feasible, coordinate such activities with the Director, National Security Agency, or his representative. The information derived from such activities shall be so handled as to give suitable protection to related activities and shall be passed to the National Security Agency to the extent desired by the Director, NSA, as soon as the special security collection requirements have been satisfied.
- k. Fulfill logistic support requirements of the National Security Agency, as authorized and directed by the Secretary of Defense.

D. Commanders of Commands Established by the Secretary of Defense

1. These Commanders will:

- a. Submit their requirements for COMINT direct support to the Chief of Service concerned.
- b. In the event the Chief of Service concerned cannot arrange for meeting the requirement or resolve the problem, the matter will then be referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- c. Conduct the activities listed in paragraph III. D. above in accordance with the provisions contained therein; where feasible, coordinate such activities with the Director, National Security Agency.
- d. Conduct those COMINT activities, other than cryptanalysis, undertaken in support of their missions under the authority of NSCID No. 5; where feasible, coordinate such activities with the Director, National Security Agency. The information derived from such activities shall be so handled as to give suitable protection to related activities and shall be passed to the National Security Agency to the extent desired by the Director, NSA, as soon as the special security collection requirements have been satisfied.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~Mar 19, 59
S-3115.4E. Non-DOD Departments and Agencies

1. The responsibilities for the conduct and support of COMINT activities by those departments and agencies as specified in reference (a) but outside the Department of Defense are covered in a separate memorandum.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication.

John D. Eisenhower
Secretary of Defense

~~SECRET~~